

THE DEMOCRAT.

Published Every Friday Morning.
TILLMAN & PRICE, Proprietors.
VERSAILLES, MISSOURI.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Fair to Look Upon.

All the big countries as well as the little ones are recognizing Panama since she fell heir to \$10,000,000.

Strenuous Life.

In San Domingo they go to sleep under one administration, awaken under another and have to hurry some if they beat the third to breakfast.

Need It in Their Business.

Castro's government in Venezuela has bought 12,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The main business of government in Venezuela is shooting.

No Definite Plans for the Future.

The Texas convict who was sentenced to 1,000 years in the penitentiary has formed no definite plans yet as to what he shall do when his term expires.

A Margin for Economy.

Secretary Shaw figures out that Uncle Sam will need \$624,562,146.97 next year. By a little stern economy that seven cents might be clipped from the bill.

Ecuador's Predicament.

Having no revolution available for immediate use, Ecuador has had to fall back on the "slight earthquake" to hold place with its neighbors in the news column.

Harmless Firing.

In Colorado 100 shots were fired between the deputy sheriffs and the striking miners and not a person hurt. About 10,000,000 words have also been fired with similar results.

No Reckless Haste.

President Roosevelt may be somewhat impulsive, but he is not showing any reckless haste to act on the suggestion of the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune that he withdraw.

Little Less Than a Graveyard.

Panama is little less than a graveyard. Last year one-tenth of the population died and the death rate in any year is not much better. But they don't boil the water in Panama.

Until the Money Is Gone.

There is to be another Santo Domingo revolution. Of course there is. Didn't Wey and Gil get away with \$1,750,000? There will be revolutions until there isn't a cent left in San Domingo.

Missouri Led All Others.

Missouri led all the states last season in the amount of cotton produced per acre. The Missouri average was 232 pounds. Indian territory stood next, with 231 pounds, and Louisiana and Oklahoma were third, with 223 pounds. Arkansas averaged 195 pounds and Texas 143 pounds.

Beginning of the Descent.

Col. Albert A. Pope at a banquet in Chicago laid the blame of the failure of the bicycle combine to the fact that it ceased advertising at a critical time. His remarks further pointed the moral that it is not enough to tell all the people some time that one has what they want, nor some of the people all the time if one is aiming at success.

Unfortunate Condition.

Over 80,000 cotton mill hands in Massachusetts have had their wages lowered as a result of the increased cost of cotton. But two or three speculators in New Orleans have made millions of dollars, and some speculators elsewhere have profited generally. Possibly this cannot be helped. But it is most unfortunate that 80,000 mill-workers should suffer while a few men make millions.

Uncle Sam's Silver Pile.

Secretary Shaw's report informs the American people that the quantity of silver now stored in the vaults of the treasury department would fill almost 500 freight cars, each carrying a load of 30 tons. Figures so prodigious bewilder the average citizen. Yet, with such mountainous heaps of the white metal in possession of the national government, the supply of silver coins of less denomination than a dollar is insufficient. The secretary suggests that congress should adopt some plan of relief.

Railway Mail Service.

At the close of the fiscal year of 1903 there were 2,935 railway mail routes in use by the post office department, with an aggregate length of 192,852 miles. The cost of transportation, or "annual rate of expenditure," was \$26,697,524. Twenty-six years ago the annual rate of expenditure was \$8,461,197, or less than a quarter of the rate last year. Moreover, \$5,279,323 was expended in 1902-03 for railway post office cars, and the aggregate of all transportation costs of 1902-03 was \$65,189,710.

NEWS FROM MISSOURI.

A Sedalia woman wouldn't let her husband go to a church weighing social the other night because the admission was half a cent a pound and he weighs 230 pounds. They couldn't spare the money, she said.

On the farm of John Carson, near Russellville, Howard county, is an apple orchard which was planted 70 years ago. The land was pre-empted at that time, and the original "sheepskin" deed was signed by Andrew Jackson. The orchard bore a good crop this year. Many of its trees are three feet in diameter.

George Hayward, a manufacturing jeweler, died recently at his home in Independence. He was 82 years of age. Mr. Hayward, when a young man in England, was buried alive and was only saved because the physicians differed as to the cause of his death. The body was exhumed the day after burial for a post-mortem examination and Hayward was found to be alive.

John Miller, 83 years old, cut an artery in his left wrist and then lay down to die on a field not far from Lawson. He was found by one of his tenants, Jack Pollard, who secured medical aid. Miller may recover. For years Miller has been a hermit. Once his home was searched by robbers, who secured \$5,000, it is said. Miller made a will December 14, which indicates that he had planned to kill himself.

Agnes O'Heron, orphan, ten years old, of Joplin, has been adopted by Thomas Connor, millionaire mine owner and the wealthiest man in southwest Missouri. Mr. Connor has made the little girl a legal heir to his large estate. The child has been making her home with the Sisters of Convent at Joplin for several years. Connor has had poor health for the past two years and for the past year the little girl has carried a pall of milk to his room at a local hotel. In this manner he became acquainted with her.

An old lady, dressed in black, bent beneath the weight of age, called on Gov. Dockery at the statehouse, appealing to him for the release of her son from the Missouri penitentiary. She stated that she did not make the petition for executive clemency because she needed the support and maintenance of her son, but asked the mercy she sought because she wanted her "boy." This old lady was Mrs. Sallie Hedgepeth, whose home is at Pisgah, in Cooper county, and the "boy" for whom she sought freedom is Marion C. Hedgepeth, who was sent to the prison in November, 1894, for train robbery under a sentence of 25 years.

Representative Dorsey W. Shackelford declined to sign the petition for a pardon of Dr. J. D. Goddard, sent to the penitentiary for killing of Fred W. Jackson, the laundryman in Kansas City. The case was tried in Jefferson City when Mr. Shackelford was judge of the circuit court. All the members of the jury and the prosecuting attorney have signed the petition for a pardon. Judge Shackelford said, when the petition was presented to him: "I must decline to make the request. I have never known a case which presented so many repulsive criminal features as this one. The conditions as revealed in the testimony were absolutely shocking and the killing was a monstrous crime against society and the state."

Judge Warwick Hough, who will try the Edward Butler case at Fulton, is one of the best-known jurists in the state. He is a native of Loudoun county, Va., but removed with his parents to Missouri in 1838, locating at Jefferson City. He graduated from Missouri university and was appointed assistant state geologist by Gov. Sterling Price. He was admitted to the bar in 1859, forming a partnership with J. Proctor Knott. He was adjutant general under Gov. Jackson and secretary of state under Gov. Thomas C. Reynolds. He served in the confederate army on the staffs of Gen. L. M. Polk, Stephen D. Lee and Dick Taylor. In 1874 he was elected to the supreme court of Missouri and served one term of ten years. He was elected judge of the circuit court in St. Louis in 1900.

Missouri is to have better high schools. At least, that is the result contemplated by extension work of the state university teachers' college soon to be inaugurated. It has been the practice in the past for the state university to employ an inspector of high schools for the purpose of placing certain of them upon the "approved list," so that their graduates might be admitted to the university without examination. Now the work of this new office will not be so much to inspect the high schools as to build them up. He will suggest improved methods of teaching, give demonstrations of the best methods, and in every way seek to be helpful to the teachers themselves. Where deemed advisable, he will lecture to the patrons and help to create that local school pride so necessary to the successful high school.

NINE LIVES LOST TWENTY INJURED

Wreck of the St. Louis & San Francisco's North-Bound Meteor.

DERAILED BY AN OPEN SWITCH

The Dead Include Engineer, Fireman, Conductor and Express Messenger—The Sleeper Passengers Escaped.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 22.—In Monday's wreck at Godfrey, Kas., of "Meteor," the St. Louis & San Francisco's fast train from the south, nine persons were killed and thirty-two others injured. Of the injured four probably will die, and 14 were seriously hurt. The train ran into a switch and all cars except the sleeper were derailed and turned over.

The wrecked train was one of the finest and fastest in the service. It was made up of two baggage and one mail car, a smoker, two chair cars and a sleeper.

When the train reached Godfrey it was behind and running at full speed to make up time.

The crew of a freight train that had preceded the Meteor left the switch open, and the passenger train jumped the track and rolled down a slight embankment. All save the sleeper turned over, and so fast was the train running that the engine and the forward baggage car landed nearly sixty feet off the roadbed before it stopped. The sleeper remained upright and none of the passengers in this car was injured.

The baggage cars were completely wrecked, and the smoker was badly damaged. Five of those killed were in the forward end of the smoker, and four of them were killed instantly.

A news agent, who was badly mangled, died on the relief train that carried the dead and injured to Fort Scott.

Engineer Dewees, of Fort Scott, Conductor Roy, of Topeka, and Fireman Bahard, of Fort Scott, were all instantly killed, and Express Messenger John Bell, of Kansas City, was seriously injured.

Others of the crew and almost every passenger on the entire train, except those in the sleeper, who escaped with a severe shake-up, were injured, some of them seriously.

The Dead.

James Kirkpatrick, Mosby, Mo.
B. A. Dewees, engineer, Fort Scott, Kas.

George Hoyt, conductor, Sapulpa, I. T.

John Bluebacker, news agent, Kansas City.

James H. Twyman (colored), Fleming, Kas.

Asa Moreland, Lenexa, Kas.

Lon Corbin, Besse, Okla.

Joseph Corbin, Besse, Okla.

Those Fatally Injured.

Sheridan Kenable, Hooperstown, Okla.

B. F. Garraway, Jonesboro, Ark.

John Bell, express messenger, Kansas City.

H. B. Darlington, mail clerk, Kansas City.

The Seriously Injured.

Mrs. E. C. Call, Hobart, Okla.

Henry McKinley, Snider, Okla.

Thos. Kent, Mountain View, Okla.

J. W. Guill, Ottumwa, Ia.

Henry M. McDonnell, Lodi, O.

L. Howard Lee, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Joseph H. Donohue, Franklin, Ill.

Walter Goshy, Kansas City.

J. D. Bryan, Davenport, Ia.

W. H. Farmer, Blackwell, Okla.

Elmer Corbin, Besse, Okla.

Jacob Roesseler, Parker, Okla.

C. J. Donovan, Snider, Okla.

J. W. Adamson, mail clerk, Kansas City.

Twelve Slightly Hurt.

Twelve others were hurt slightly.

Most of the injured were badly burned as well as being maimed.

In the crash the baggage car telescoped the engine and landed in a corn field, while the smoker and the two chair cars were piled in a mass on top of the engine. Most of the injured were in the chair cars, which took fire soon after the accident.

J. A. Bartley, the freight brakeman, whose failure to flag the passenger train caused the wreck, has not been found. The Corbin brothers, two of whom were killed and one seriously injured, were on their way home to Oklahoma to spend Christmas.

THREE MISSING HUNTERS.

Search for Swan Rundquist, George Messenger and Gust Nelson Has Been Abandoned.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Search has been abandoned for the three hunters who are supposed to have been lost on the floating ice fields out in Lake Michigan. The men have been missing 26 hours. When they left shore they expected to return in three hours. The party consisted of Swan Rundquist, George Messenger and Gust Nelson.

THE SOUTH IS INTERESTED

The Atlanta Constitution Comes Out in Favor of Canal Treaty.

The Progressive, Producing and Business Interests of the South Demand Its Ratification.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 22.—Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, comes out editorially in indorsement of the Panama canal policy of President Roosevelt and the administration, and criticizes the attitude of Senator Daniel, of Virginia, in opposing the treaty.

The editorial says the Republic of Panama was not born too quickly, considering the circumstances, nor did the American government recognize it any too soon. In conclusion, it says:

"Suppose we withdraw our recognition and reject the treaty? What will be our position, then, as viewed by the other governments of Europe and America that have also recognized the new Republic of Panama? Are we to do this ridiculous thing, abandon our treaty rights in Panama, give up the canal there, withdraw our guardianship of rail transit now going on, and go hunting for terms with people who would be fools if they did not profit themselves tremendously by our predicament?"

"Senator Hoar can afford to fight the canal so long as Boston is building enormous terminal facilities to handle the ocean-bound freights of the trans-continental railroads. Senator Hale, of Maine, can afford to join him, since Portland is becoming the entrepot and export depot of the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk systems. Senator Teller and other senators may be indifferent, because the canal does not appeal to any specific interest in their states."

"But southern senators can not escape the certain conviction that a vote from any one of them adverse to the treaty will be a vote against the urgent interests and demands of the progressive, producing and business interests of these southern states."

ON THE ISLAND OF PINES.

One Hundred Colombian Troops Said to Have Established a Base Upon Panama Territory.

Colon, Panama, Dec. 22.—Information has been received here that about 100 Colombian troops have landed at the island of Pines, northwest of Cape Tiburon, which is situated at the western entrance of the Gulf of Darien. The island of Pines is on Panama territory and is the only island along that coast which is wooded, peaked with mountains and also well watered, thus offering every facility for camping and being used as a base of observation. It is significant in this connection that the United States auxiliary cruiser Mayflower left this harbor Sunday bound in the direction of the island of Pines, to obtain confirmation of the report.

The United States gunboat Bancroft is still on that coast, in the vicinity of Nombre de Dios.

The United States cruiser Nashville has returned to Colon from Bocas del Toro.

Rear-Admiral Coghlan has transferred his flag to the United States auxiliary cruiser Prairie.

COALED AND READY FOR SEA.

The Torpedo Boat Destroyers Paul Jones and Preble Simply Awaiting Officers.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—The torpedo boat destroyers Paul Jones and Preble are lying at the Mare island navy yard coaled and ready for sea, awaiting the coming of officers from the east. The officers are now on their way to the navy yard, and it is expected that the warships will sail next Wednesday for Panama. A crew from the training ship Independence has been placed on the Paul Jones, and the Preble also has a full complement. Both vessels, however, lack a number of officers.

RECIPROCITY WITH CUBA.

The Recently Ratified Treaty Will Become Effective After Midnight of Sunday Next.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The secretary of the treasury has issued a circular letter of instructions to officers of the customs and others interested in bringing into operation the treaty of reciprocity with Cuba, approved December 11, 1902, and made effective by act of congress and the president's proclamation of December 17, 1903. The circular declares that the treaty becomes operative one minute after midnight.

FINLAND'S PASSENGERS LANDED.

Flushing, Holland, Dec. 22.—The passengers of the Red Star line steamer Finland, which left Antwerp Saturday for New York and went ashore near here, have been landed. The Finland is leaking and her cargo is being discharged. The work is progressing slowly, owing to lack of lighters.

STRIKERS PREVENT THE BURIAL OF DEAD

Bodies Put In Vaults Until It Is Safe to Take Them to Cemeteries.

SECRET FUNERALS BY NIGHT

Chief of Police O'Neill Tells Representatives of Union in Plain Language His Opinion of Them and Their Actions.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Shrinking from the espionage of union pickets and fearful that funeral parties would be attacked by the striking livery drivers, many Chicago families have refrained from publicly announcing their bereavement.

In the vaults of several undertakers lie the bodies of the persons about whose deaths the utmost secrecy is maintained and whose funerals have been postponed until after a settlement of the strike.

In other cases the stricken relatives have arranged for evening funerals and private burials, of which no announcement is made.

The disgraceful scenes that attended several funerals held on last Saturday when union pickets attempted to interfere with the removal of bodies, have led the health department officials to sanction the secrecy that is being preserved.

Undertakers have been informed that, unless public safety demands it, burials will not be insisted on until such time as funeral parties shall be safe from molestation.

A. M. Perriego, president of the Liverymen and Undertakers' association, said Monday night:

"The reason more deaths are not announced is because we have learned that the strikers have been reading the list of death notices in the papers and sending pickets to watch the houses."

PICKETING MUST STOP.

Chief O'Neill Issues an Order in Decided Plain Language.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Picketing of houses from which funerals are to start, whether peaceful or violent, by union livery drivers who went on strike four days ago and which has seriously interfered with the burial of the dead of Chicago, is to be prevented by the police under direct orders issued Monday night by Chief of Police O'Neill. J. R. Wadsworth, secretary, and Charles Stevens, business agent of the liverymen's union, were summoned before Chief O'Neill Monday night and told in decidedly plain language that any differences the union might have would have to be settled away from the houses of mourning.

"This picketing of homes from which funerals are being held is beyond toleration of a civilized community," said Chief O'Neill. "Your zeal has carried you beyond the pale of endurance, and such an unheard-of thing as carrying labor troubles to the houses of the dead will not be allowed by the police. Under no circumstances will I permit picketing of any kind around a house where a funeral is to proceed. And I must say that it ought not to be necessary for me to take this step."

"Law or no law, picketing of every kind around these houses will have to stop. I shall take my chances with the courts on the questions if my conduct is questioned in any court."

Chief O'Neill then issued a general order to all inspectors of police on the line of his conversation with the two union officials. He instructed the commanding officers to accompany funerals in carriages, if circumstances seemed to require it, to see that the last rites of the dead were in no way interfered with.

SERIOUS FIRE IN NEW YORK.

There Was a Panic Among Italian Tenements—Fire Chief Coleman Buried in the Ruins.

New York, Dec. 22.—The famous "Two Nines" fire alarm, summoning more fire apparatus than any other alarm provided for by New York's fire department, was sounded Monday night for a terrific fire which destroyed the six-story factory building of the Hermann furniture and plumbing cabinet works, in Mott street, and the four-story varnish factory of the firm run under the name of the H. Hermann Lumber Co. A quarter of a million dollars' damage was done. Battalion Chief Martin Coleman is believed to have perished in the fall of two great walls of the factory. There was a frightful panic among the Italian inmates of the swarming front and rear tenements opposite and in the rear of the burning buildings, and the firemen and police reserves from three precincts had the utmost difficulty in getting the people out to the street.